

THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

National championship season

MC captures pair of table tennis titles

CLINTON, Miss. (BP and local reports) — Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton won the only national championships in the state so far this year when the Baptist-affiliated university's coed doubles and men's doubles table tennis teams captured titles April 12 in Wisconsin.

The duo of Cheng Li and Tong Zhang, both from China, overcame a 7-3 deficit to defeat Texas Wesleyan University of Ft. Worth 12-10 and lift the Choctaws to the 2015 coed championship. The coed category allows for, but does not require, women to be part of a team.

Li and Zhang also won the men's doubles championship for MC, defeating Texas Wesleyan University in the finals. MC narrowly missed a third national championship when team captain Li, the nation's singles champion in 2014, was defeated by another MC Texas Wesleyan University player.

The competition was

held at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire.

The April 10-12 tournament attracted 250 top collegiate players from the U.S. and Canada.

After finishing No. 2 in the nation for three consecutive years, the MC coed team brought home their trophy April 13 to the 5,000-student, Baptist-affiliated university based in Clinton.

MC is in its eighth season of table tennis competition. "This is a huge step for us,"



GOING FOR RETURN — Tong Zhang, a Mississippi College table tennis athlete from China, focuses on his return shot during the April 10-12 National Collegiate Table Tennis Association championships at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. (BP photo)

said Tyler Brogdon of Birmingham, the lone American on the MC's coed squad which lists three other players from China.

— Jonathan MC

up No. 2 once again. "We believed in Mr. Liang said.

Former head coach Ken Qiu, also a native of China, built the squad from scratch, with the team ending its first season at the 2008 National Collegiate Table Tennis Association championships at No. 14 in the nation.

see CHAMPIONSHIP on p. 6

Li's leadership vital to victory



CLINTON, Miss. (BP and local reports) — This season, Cheng Li stepped up his game as leader of the Mississippi College (MC) table tennis team. A 22-year-old native of China, the MC business major

see LEADERSHIP on p. 6

Tenn. joins sister state in killing Bible legislation

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — The Bible will not become the official state book of Mississippi or Tennessee — at least not this year.

The Tennessee Senate voted 22-9 on April 16 to send the Bible bill to committee and effectively kill the measure after it had passed the House of Representatives the previous day by a 55-38 margin.

House Bill 386, a proposed Mississippi bill to codify the Bible as the official book of the state, filed by District Three Republican Rep. Tracy Arnold, senior pastor of the non-denominational church The Vineyard in Booneville, suffered a similar fate earlier this year. It was referred to the House Rules Committee on January 12, where it died on a February 3 deadline.

Democratic Reps. Tom Miles (District 75) of Forest and Michael Evans (District 43) of Preston, both Baptists, also introduced House Bill 1178 for the same purpose, and their bill also died in the House Rules Committee on the same February 3 deadline.

"The Bible provides a good role model on how to treat people," Miles told Associated Press after he filed his bill. "They could read in there about love and compassion."

Michael Evans told online news site Al.com that he was discussing "all the things going wrong in the world" with constituents, and someone suggested making the Bible the state book. "I believe in the Bible," he told the news site.

Not everyone agrees with the Mississippi legislators' intention.

Democratic Reps. Tom Miles (District 75) of Forest and Michael Evans (District 43) of Preston, both Baptists, also introduced House Bill 1178 for the same purpose, and their bill also died in the House Rules Committee on the same February 3 deadline.

"The state is supposed to be neutral when it comes to religion. I think it could be argued that for the state to officially declare one religion's Holy Scripture to be the official book of the state would be putting the state on the side of giving preference to one faith over

other faith. I think that is probably unconstitutional."

The Tennessee bill's supporters also faced a number of detractors from the outset. Republican Gov. Bill Haslam said it violated the Tennessee Constitution and the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Republican Attorney General Herbert Slatery III issued a four-page legal opinion April 13 declaring that the bill violates both the state and federal constitutions.

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris of Collierville led the effort to stop the bill in the Senate, according to the Tennessean newspaper in Nashville. Republican Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey of Blountville opposed the legislation, saying it belittles the Bible by placing it next to state symbols, The Tennessean reported.

New app offers BP product upgrade

NASHVILLE (BP) — Baptist Press (BP), the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) news service, officially launched a free app on April 13 that will connect users to daily BP content and key entities across SBC life.

The app is available in both Android and iPhone formats through Google Play and the Apple Store. Enter a search for "Baptist Press," using quote marks for best access to the app. The app replaces BP's mobile site by which smartphone users accessed the news service prior to the redesign of its website last September.

Art Toalston, now in his 24th year as editor of Baptist Press, said the app broadens BP's media spectrum including its BaptistPress.com website and the news service's ongoing presence on Twitter and Facebook.

"The app also will offer a versatile connection to all of Southern Baptist life, connecting to entity websites that are at the forefront of missions, evangelism, service, discipleship, stewardship, and biblical theology."

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Previously known only to animals

The April 3 conference for Iowa school kids was supposed to be about how to stop bullying. It sounded safe enough to parents. After all, bullying is a widespread problem and the conference was being sponsored by a group called Iowa Safe Schools. The governor's name and office were attached to it.

Instead, according to Todd Starnes of Fox News, about 1,000 underage children who attended were subjected to presentations such as a profanity-filled tirade from a cross-dresser, graphic instructions on perverted sex acts previously known only to lower animals, and how to construct fake sex organs.

"We were absolutely flabbergasted," one father whose daughter attended the event told Starnes. "It was graphic and pornographic. From a parent's perspective I can't think of anywhere this should be an acceptable conversation. For paid speakers to be in front of a group talking about how to avoid choking during oral sex - I cannot fathom where that would be an appropriate conversation."

Starnes, a former associate editor at Baptist Press in Nashville, confirmed the nature of the event with a high school principal whose students attended. "Some students and teachers were surprised by some of the content," the principal wrote in an e-mail to Starnes. "Not what they thought they were getting into. That would be the extent of my comments."

The Family Leader, a strongly conservative Christian organization headquartered in Pleasant Hill, Iowa, wasn't so reticent after Bob Vander Plaats, president of the group, sent an observer to sit in on the conference.

"I had a chance to speak with The Family Leader's observer," Starnes reported in an April 17 article on FoxNews.com. "She told me students were given advice on medical transitions from male to female and vice versa - along with information on medication to delay puberty, the observer told me.

"They talked about binders - things that compress a girl's chest to make it appear you don't have what is there," the observer told

me. "And they talked about how students can make fake testicles by filling pantyhose with rice and sewing them into their panties."

Starnes, who was the keynote speaker at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Witnessing Through Media conference Feb. 20 at Broadmoor Church in Madison, wrote that he has tried to contact Iowa Safe Schools to no avail. No surprise there. The group obviously cannot justify the content of the conference and doesn't suffer criticism very well.

Iowa Safe Schools did find time to engage in some character assassination on their web site, where they accused Vander Plaats of engaging in "mean spirited rhetoric" and *The Family Leader* of trying to "bully, intimidate, and take away a special event for Iowa's students, parents, and educators."

They didn't cite any evidence to back up their vitriol, however.

Mississippi is not Iowa. Iowa is not part of the South - culturally, politically, or spiritually - but we would be naive to believe that similar groups don't exist in our state whose chief goal is to twist young people's thinking about human sexuality and encourage them to overcome their natural modesty about the subject.

We would also be naive to believe that these groups would not spread their vile philosophies of life through misleading and deceptive information about their conferences and other contacts with young people.

Being a parent in this day and age is exhausting enough, and along comes another battle for the hearts and minds of our children - our very young children. In California, first graders are legally permitted to declare which sex they believe they are regardless of biological realities. In Washington State, a grown man is allowed to announce himself a woman so he can stroll around naked in a public university's female locker room where young girls are changing into swimsuits.

It's not alarmism to believe such can happen here. Just ask the good people of Iowa, California, and Washington State. Be aware. Be prepared.

Don't be afraid of dark

When I was a boy, I saw some horror movie that gave me nightmares, leaving me scared of the dark for months. It was so bad that I'd cover my head with the blanket when sleeping, even on warm summer nights in Illinois.

Already a fan of John Wayne, I was ashamed of myself for not living up to his code. Then during an episode of *Lost in Space*, a TV series in the mid-1960s not to be missed by young boys like me, I saw the show's young protagonist, Will Robinson (my age), on our black & white TV screen, sleeping without covering his head.

That did it. The brave examples of a movie star and a kid on TV helped me conquer the demon of the dark, although it was a movie that had tormented me to begin with.

Why this tale from my youth? For me, the motion picture is the essence of all other art forms. When the influence of the boob tube is added, these two mediums have dwarfed other artistic endeavors as the dominant form for fashioning our cultural surroundings. The cinema and television are now so ensconced in our society it's difficult to escape their input, even if you don't watch them. They affect us, often more than we will admit.

The most endearing films and exceptional TV programs can nourish the spirit as well as entertain. The artistic impact of films such as *It's A Wonderful Life*, *The Tree of Life*, or *The Passion of the Christ* can linger, reminding us that there is more to the human makeup than just the mental and physical.

Then there is that darker side of drama, comedy, and fantasy. Depending on the filmmaker's intent, a production can attack our subconscious or lead us away from God's purpose. Some of the most powerful tools Satan has at his disposal are those found in the field of entertainment media that can be used to mislead and corrupt the mind and soul.

Whether individual films have a detrimental effect on audiences has yet to be irrefutably proven but it doesn't take a gaggle of psychologists to see that non-stop, exploitive sexual images and brutal violence do exacerbate destructive behavior. As entertainment



Guest opinion
with Phil Boatwright

commentator Michael Medved stated a few years back in his provocative and insightful book, *Hollywood Vs. America: Popular Culture and the War on Traditional Values*:

The most profound problem with the popular culture isn't its immediate impact on a few vulnerable and explosive individuals, but its long-term effect on the rest of us. The deepest concerns about Hollywood go beyond the industry's role in provoking a handful of specific crimes and involve its contribution to a general climate of violence and self-indulgence.

Movies and TV shows have man's imprint all over them. The Bible, on the other hand, has God's. It's up to us whether we are going to be led by secular storytellers or guided onto our heavenly Father's paths. In these uncertain times - perhaps the end times - we need to read the Book.

To discern the media's misconceptions and misdirection, we must be grounded in scriptural teaching. Along with guidance from thoughtful theologians who study the social and political landscape, we gain foresight by personally studying Scripture.

The Bible is a guidepost for living a lifestyle that keeps us in harmony with the heavenly Father and with our fellow man. If we read God's Word, embrace it, and live by it, we'll never have to be afraid of the dark.

In addition to writing for *Baptist Press*, Boatwright of Kansas City, Mo., reviews films for *previewonline.org* and is a regular contributor to *The World and Everything In It*, a weekly radio program from *WORLD News Group*.

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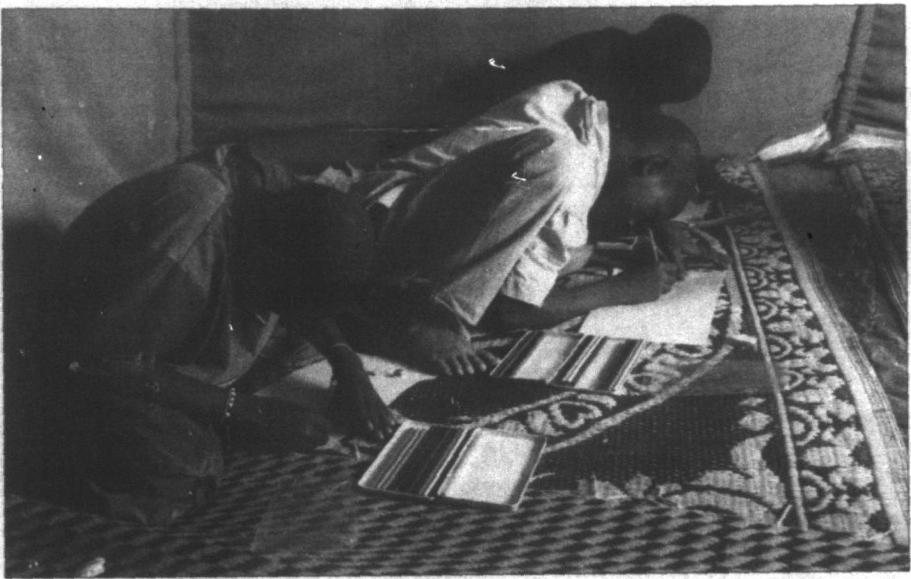
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TROUBLED MEMORIES — Displaced Nigerian children (from left) Ousmane, age 10, Moussa, age nine, and Oumar, age 12, utilize drawing to describe their experiences with Muslim terrorist group Boko Haram in Nigeria while at a Cooperazione Internazionale refugee site in neighboring Niger. (BP photo courtesy of UNICEF)

Boko Haram continues Nigerian devastation

NASHVILLE (BP) — One year after Muslim terrorist group Boko Haram kidnapped 276 schoolgirls from Chibok, Nigeria, more than 800,000 children remain displaced by groups extremist onslaught in Nigeria and neighboring countries, the United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) reported April 13.

The number of displaced children — among 1.5 million people forced to flee their homes in the region — has more than doubled within the past year in northeast Nigeria and the African countries of Cameroon, Niger, and Chad, UNICEF stated in a report titled, Missing Childhoods: The Impact of Armed Conflict on Children in Nigeria and Beyond.

The 1.5 million refugees and internally-displaced persons in the region are among an overall 3.5 million-plus people who face months of food shortages from the insurgency, according to March news reports of projections by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network.

Manuel Fontaine, UNICEF regional director for West and Central Africa, said the capture of the Chibok schoolgirls, 200 of whom remain missing, is "only one of endless tragedies being replicated on an epic scale across Nigeria and the region."

Scores of girls and boys have gone missing in Nigeria — abducted, recruited by armed groups, attacked, used as weap-

ons, or forced to flee violence," Fontaine said. Women and girls also have been targeted for "particularly horrific abuse, including sexual enslavement," according to the UNICEF report.

Boko Haram, in targeting students and teachers, has damaged or destroyed 300 schools, and killed at least 196 teachers and 314 schoolchildren through the end of 2014, UNICEF said. UNICEF also predicted the numbers would increase as Boko Haram violence continues.

The UNICEF report quotes Marzia Vigliaroni of Cooperazione Internazionale, an Italian nongovernmental organization which manages a space in Diffa, Niger, for displaced children with support from the U.N. agency.

"Some children are very shy. They won't speak or participate in our activities. They need psycho-social support. We ask them to make drawings of their experience during the attack. They draw people with slit throats and people drowning in the river," Vigliaroni said.

"This shows us how deeply affected children are. We work with them individually. We try to help them forget the traumatizing events they have experienced and continue their lives like other children and forget what they had to live through."

UNICEF's report was among various papers on Boko Haram violence released on the one-year anniversary of the Chibok kidnapping, which was commemo-

rated with special church services and vigils across Nigeria.

Boko Haram affiliated with ISIS, the self-proclaimed Mid-east Islamic state, in early March and has worked to end Christianity in Nigeria.

Boko Haram has kidnapped at least 2,000 women and girls and killed at least 5,500 civilians since the start of 2014, Amnesty International said in a 90-page report titled, "Our Job is to Shoot, Slaughter, and Kill": Boko Haram's Reign of Terror. The report included findings from more than 200 witness accounts, including interviews with 28 abducted women and girls who escaped captivity, Amnesty International said.

Nigeria's military earlier reported successes against Boko Haram that allowed the country to hold largely peaceful democratic presidential elections March 28, placing Muslim candidate Muhammadu Buhari in office. He has pledged to continue efforts to defeat the militants and to secure the Chibok girls' freedom, although he made no promises.

"We do not know if the Chibok girls can be rescued. Their whereabouts remain unknown. As much as I wish to, I cannot promise that we can find them," Buhari told Reuters News on April 14, saying his approach would differ from that of defeated President Goodluck Jonathan.

"My government will do everything in its power to bring them home," Buhari said.

Pastors gather to remember Cuban jailing 50 years ago

MIAMI (BP) — A group of about 400 Baptists met April 7 at Iglesia Bautista Getsemani in Miami to mark the 50th anniversary of the arrests of several pastors, missionaries, and laity in the western part of Cuba by the communist Castro government.

"We do not come to make old scars bleed, but rather to celebrate as [God] was in control of what happened."

Samuel Alemán

pastor and son of arrested pastor

Lozano, pastor of Turning Point Miami and the son of an arrested pastor. "Some had to work in two and three churches to keep them open."

In 1965, there were 89 Baptist churches in western Cuba with a total of 6,754 members. Although some believers did not continue attending church for fear of being arrested, the church grew and today there are 445 congregations with about 26,000 members in total.

In addition, there are now nearly 2,000 house churches and 508 missions.

"Brothers, we crossed the Jordan River. ...We cannot forget how wonderful our God is," said Pastor Alemán, after reading a passage from the book of Joshua.

Although that piece of Cuban Baptist history is bitter, Alemán and other pastors who spoke Tuesday night called for forgiveness. "If there is any bitterness left, now is the time to forgive," he urged. "Do not let it overshadow the joy of Lord."



RECALLING IMPRISONMENT — Pastors who were jailed in Cuba on April 7, 1965, by the communist Castro dictatorship reunited April 7 of this year at Iglesia Bautista Getsemani in Miami to mark the 50-year anniversary of their jailing. (BP photo courtesy of Florida Baptist Witness)

I was speaking at a banquet for one of our churches — it was actually an associational meeting — and I was sitting across the table from one of our fine pastors. A number of us were just having dinner conversation and one of our friends, a fellow pastor, was having a difficult time with his health and dealing with the disease. One remark led to another about our own health issues and how we were dealing with life, at which time the pastor across the table from me said, "Well, I've got CRS." I just looked at him kind of strange because I'm constantly hearing of some new, exotic illness that I've never heard of that attacks somebody and I just assumed that's what he had come in contact with. I said, "What?" And he said, "I have CRS." "What is that?" He said, "Can't Remember Stuff." I, along with everyone else, laughed and then the conversation moved into the problems that everyone has from time to time whether you're in the first grade or the first semester of your second childhood.

Can't Remember Stuff is a great descriptor of what all of us struggle with because we live in a world where every day is a new avalanche of information poured out on top of us. It does not matter if you're watching 24 hour a day cable news or reading information on the World Wide Web or getting information on your iPad or iPhone or whatever cellular device you carry around. There are all kinds of new, explosive information coming at you constantly.

It may be a short article you read about a celebrity having a plane crash or the IRS setting new rules with which they're going after people or a new discovery of an illness in some faraway place on the other side of the world. It could be scores from ball games or some article related to one of the fifty or sixty people thinking about running for president. It could be something your mate told you or asked you to do or one of the thousands of bits of information that comes to you while you are trying to carry out your work. At the end of the day you may

CRS

feel like you have developed CRS — Can't Remember Stuff.

Now the fact is that none of us can just instantaneously store and keep and comprehend all the information that we're processing. It comes too quickly, stays too short a time, only to have more stuff coming at us right around the corner to remember every little piece of information. Add to that lots of folks don't have a good memory to begin with. In fact a great old friend of mine years ago said, "I'll just be honest with you, my memory is what I use to forget with." Somehow it made sense.

I'm fairly sure that every one of us possesses a different degree of memory capacity than the people right around us, but also am confident that sometimes our remembering and not remembering is because of our lack of focus and paying attention to what we're supposed to remember. Now there are just some things that I am not going to waste my time with trying to remember. There's really no need and I don't think I'll ever need the information, so I am not going to spend time trying to remember it. I do not try to remember telephone numbers. Now of course today you can store umpteen numbers in your cell

phone and just pull up a name and call the number that's there. But even before we had all those numbers stored in a directory, I didn't try to remember my own phone number. In fact, in all the years and different phone numbers I've had, there's only one I remember to this day. At one point we had a phone number that was 444-4440. If you don't pay attention, you're not likely to retain it.

But a second factor about remembering stuff that is of importance is that most of us remember what we ought to forget and forget what we ought to remember. Crazy, isn't it? There are some things that when we listen to what God tells us and forgive someone, we need to let it go to such a degree that we don't even retain the memory of it. But, no, those things seem to stay with us and are indelibly printed on our hearts but we need to forget them and let them go. At the same time we forget things, we ought to remember things. There are things about the Lord including the wonderful declaration in Ecclesiastes, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" (12:1). But while we ought to remember, we tend to forget. While the Hatfields and the McCoys carried on a feud, fussing and fighting with each

other for decades, most of the people forgot what they were fighting over and could only remember to fight and fuss. But they're not the only ones. For I have known people to carry grudges and have bitterness in their spirit about people and over things that they should have forgotten years and years and decades ago. If and when we remember what we should forget and forget what we should remember, it is to our own detriment that we do that. For in either direction and in both cases, a poison is loosed in our soul that will affect us as long as we maintain that posture.

But a final thought about CRS disease ... and that is to remind you that God in His wonderful power and plan forgets stuff.

The Scripture says that God forgives us of our sins and then dramatically pictures that He casts them into the depths of the sea (Mic. 7:19), removes them as far as the east is from the west (Ps. 103:12), never to remember them against us again (Isa. 43:25). God Himself imposes CRS on Himself and wants us to know that when He forgives us, He can't remember stuff and will hold it against us no more. What a word from heaven. There is stuff that consciously, deliberately and with the help and grace of God, you need to forget today. That hurtful word that someone said to you that you have not forgotten in decades. That painful experience you went through in a broken relationship years ago and have kept it close to your heart and on the front edge of your mind all this time. That disappointment and huge loss you experienced at your job, in your profession, or with a dear friend. You need to forget and move on.

It is a wonderful thing when God helps someone to forget what they need to forget and though it has nothing to do with intellect, it is a wonderful spiritual experience when you come to the place where you have CRS — Can't Remember Stuff.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Submission Guidelines



The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. **Secondary method:** news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

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ZNXZX E DJR: CAD

Clue: E = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs 8:11

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

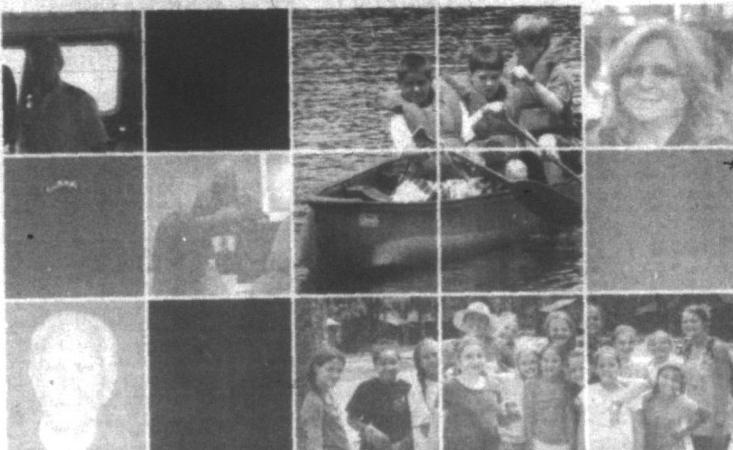
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WEDNESDAY

JUNE 10, 2015

Union Baptist Church, Picayune, 6:30 p.m.
1628 West Union Road, Picayune MS 39466
(601) 798-6470

Anthony Turner, Minister of Music

THURSDAY

JUNE 11, 2015

Wade Baptist Church, Moss Point, 6:30 p.m.
20623 Highway 63, Moss Point, MS 39562
(228) 588-3356

Nan Davis, Contact Person

FRIDAY

JUNE 12, 2015

Lincoln/Pike County Jail (tentative), 10:00 a.m.
New Heights Baptist Church, Summit, 6:30 p.m.
5140 U.S. 98, Summit, MS 39666
(601) 276-1851 (601) 371-2429

Joe Elliot, Minister of Music

SATURDAY

JUNE 13, 2015

First Baptist Church, Greenwood, noon
500 W. Washington Street, Greenwood, MS
38930
(662) 453-3075

Barry Beauchillon, Minister of Music

CrossPoint

A Southern Baptist Church, Starkville, 6:00 p.m.
Concert at the Starkville Sportsplex
405 Lynn Lane, Starkville, MS 39759
(662) 320-2140

Scott Cappleman, Pastor

SUNDAY

JUNE 14, 2015

Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus, 10:15 a.m.
127 Airline Road, Columbus, MS 39702
(662) 328-2924

Todd Davis, Contact Person

Belden Baptist Church, Belden, 5:00 p.m.
4121 McCullough Blvd., Belden, MS 38826
(662) 842-6341

Gary Gray, Minister of Music

MONDAY

JUNE 15, 2015

First Baptist Church, Jackson, 6:30 p.m.
431 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39201
(601) 949-1900

Lavon Gray, Minister of Music

Edd Brashier, Associate Minister of Music

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COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DINNER

THURSDAY | MAY 14 | 6:30 P.M.

First Baptist Church, Jackson

PASTORS, STAFF, CHAIRMAN OF DEACONS,
FINANCIAL/BUDGET CHARMEN AND SPOUSES

DR. FUTRAL, SPEAKER

NO COST, BUT YOU MUST RSVP TO LISA LEAVELL AT 601/292-3347
OR LEAVELL@MBCB.ORG BY MONDAY, MAY 11TH

For more information contact the Stewardship/CP Promotion
Department of the MBCB at 800-748-1651, Ext. 347.



2015 VBS

REGIONAL TRAINING

Time at all locations: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

4/28 Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Drive, Meridian

4/30 North Oxford Baptist Church, Oxford

5/4 Crosspoint Community Church, Hattiesburg

5/5 First Baptist Church, Brookhaven

For more information contact the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 800-748-1651, Ext. 294, or 601-292-3294

GROUPS MATTER.

We will be in all areas of our state to equip your Sunday School and Small Group church leadership from pastors to preschool with tools for teaching Jesus as the Christ.

2015 Sunday School and Small Groups Leadership Conferences
6:30-8:30 p.m.

LOCATIONS

- 7/21/2015** Hardy Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg
- 7/28/2015** First Baptist Church, Newton
- 7/30/2015** Brandon Baptist Church, Brandon
- 8/4/2015** Crosspoint Church, Gulfport
- 8/7-8/2015** Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo
(part of Growing Churches)
- 8/11/2015** West McComb Baptist Church, West McComb
- 8/13/2015** First Baptist Church, Batesville
- 8/25/2015** First Baptist Church, Cleveland
- 8/27/2015** First Baptist Church, Winona



BAPTISTS

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board,
Sunday School and Small Groups Team

First Baptist Church of Grove City
3301 Orders Road
Grove City, Ohio 43123

ALL FOR YOU

NATIONAL WMU ANNUAL MEETING

June 14-15, 2015

Save the date for an amazing celebration of what God is doing around the world through missions! Come early to the SBC annual meeting in Columbus. First Baptist Church of Grove City is just a 10-to-15 minute drive from the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

For more information, contact Stephanie Pruitt, MS WMU at 601-292-3319 or spruitt@mcb.org

GROWING CHURCHES[®]

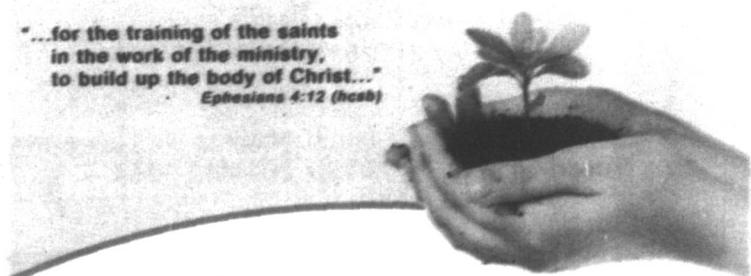
Sponsored by MS Baptist Convention & North MS Baptist Association

Growing Churches Conference

Friday and Saturday, August 7th and 8th, 2015

Harrisburg Baptist Church
4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd
Tupelo, MS 38801

...for the training of the saints
in the work of the ministry,
to build up the body of Christ...
Ephesians 4:12 (KJV)



For more information, please call the Lee County Baptist Association
662.566.1700 or log on to www.growingchurches.info

OR
contact the Discipleship/Family Ministry Dept. of the MBCB at
800-748-1651, Ext. 283, or 601-292-3283



Pray this day for...

April 24 - May 7, 2015

"According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."

1 Peter 1:3 (ESV)

Pray for: **Jeffery & Liesa Holman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Janet Holloway**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard Jones**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Susan Jones**, missionary ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Raymond & Cynthia Hodgins**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples through sports evangelism, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Asbury & Jeannie Martin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert & Janice Mooney**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Sarah Perkins**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through mission support, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination & evangelism.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

Senior Day RETREAT 2015

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada
Tuesday, May 19, 2015 • 601-226-5316

Salem Heights Baptist Church, Laurel
Thursday, May 21, 2015 • 601-763-7571

First Baptist Church, Natchez
Tuesday, May 26, 2015 • 601-442-1464

For more information contact the Discipleship/Family Ministry Department of the MBCB at 800-748-1651, Ext. 284, or 601-292-3284

Unveiled

Women's Retreat
October 9-10, 2015
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

Our theme, "Unveiled" comes from 2 Corinthians 3:18, with prayers this will be an enriching get-away for women of all ages. Cyndi Grace is our featured speaker with Mary Moak leading in worship and praise.

\$25 plus housing and meals

Contact the MS WMU at 800-748-1651, Ext. 319 or visit <http://www.mbc.org/event/womens-retreat/>

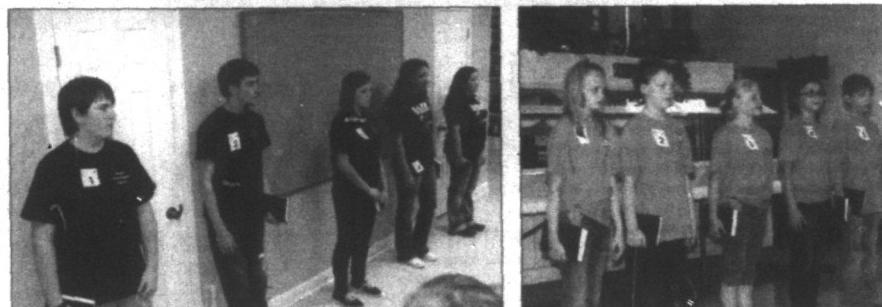
Bible Drill



CENTRAL CHURCH, MCNEILL, recognizes its Bible drillers.



CHESTER CHURCH, ACKERMAN, recognizes its youth and children drillers.



MARSHALL ASSOCIATION conducted its annual drills Apr. 12 at SLAYDEN CHURCH.



Over 133 children and 106 youth participated in the RANKIN ASSOCIATION Bible drill Apr. 9. Judy Hicks, Brandon Church, was the chairman.

MS POSITIONS

ENON BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH. Send resumes to: 2604 Carrollton Rd., Grenada, Ms. 38901 or email: enonbaptistchurch@outlook.com or call: (662)226-0778.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, GREENWOOD IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR. Please send resumes to Calvary Baptist Church, Music Search Committee, 4644 Billy Stone Rd (CR 171), Greenwood, MS 38903.

HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH SEEKING PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resumes to: Hebron Baptist Church 16 Hebron Church Road, SOSO, MS 39480 or Email resumes to kasey.smith05@gmail.com.

INTERSTATE BAPTIST CHURCH IN SHAW, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Send Resumes to: Wanda Chouccol, 947 Sandpit Rd. Shaw, MS 38773 or email to: jwtt5@hotmail.com.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, DURANT IS SEEKING A PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE CHURCH SECRETARY. Please send resume to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, Durant, 132 West Mulberry Street, Durant, MS 39063

EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH IN INDIANOLA, MS IS IN SEARCH OF A FULL TIME PASTOR. Please send resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, P. O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751 or email to Shirley Bettis at sbettis@bellsouth.net.

STRONG RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH IN PINOLA, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to Gene Farmer at 209 Katie Bush Rd Pinola, MS 39149

TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH. Send resumes to: 807 China Grove Road, Jayess, MS 39641 or brodale54@bellsouth.net.

VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH IN MATHIS- TON, MS. IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR EITHER A BI-VOCATIONAL OR A FULL- TIME PASTOR. Please send resumes to: Victory Baptist Church, ATTN: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 12, Mathiston, Ms.

SOUTH MCCOMB BAPTIST IS CUR- RENTLY SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH MINISTER TO LEAD AND SERVE. Email all resumes to smbc01@bellsouth.net.

SMALL BAPTIST CHURCH IN NORTH RANKIN COUNTY IN NEED OF A BI- VOCATIONAL PIANO PLAYER, AND, ALSO, A BI-VOCATIONAL MUSIC DIREC- TOR. Please send resumes to the Lake Harbor Baptist Church P O Box 339 Sandhill, Ms 39161.

NEEDED: FULL TIME OR BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN AT ASHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH IN ASH- LAND, MS. Send resumes to Mr. Stanley Poff, 285 Carter Flats, Ashland, MS 38603 or email to stanleypoff@yahoo.com

PART/TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED AT NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS. Please send resumes to Youth Minister Search Comm. 629 Forest Trail Brookhaven, Ms. 39001

ROSELAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH IN PICAYUNE, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please send resumes to RPBC, Attn: Music Search Committee, 2130 Highway 11 North, Picayune, MS 39466 or email to jennifer@rpbc.us.

College News



Sixteen **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** students were inducted into the Mississippi Beta chapter of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society on April 15. Membership into Alpha Chi is limited to no more than 10 percent of the junior, senior and graduate class members. Carey students must have at least a 3.70 grade point average on the 4.0 scale to qualify for membership. In addition to the student inductees, Garry Breland, Carey's vice president for academic affairs, received an honorary membership into the honor society.

In other College News:

► The Cobbler, the student newspaper of **William Carey University**, earned several awards during the 2014-2015 Better Newspaper Contest - Student Division, hosted by the Mississippi Press Association Education Foundation. Editor-in-Chief and Sports Editor Michael Coelho, a senior business major from Niceville, Fla., won first place in the Best Sports Feature category for a column about the impact of the late Milton Wheeler, a longtime member of the Carey faculty. The Cobbler, published seven times per academic year, competes in the senior colleges and universities division of the contest. Joshua Wilson, marketing specialist, serves as advisor. The awards were presented during the annual O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference held March 26 at the Mississippi Craft Center in Ridgeland.

► As a result of strong growth in health-related programs, the **William Carey University** Board of Trustees recently approved the creation of the College of Health Sciences. The new academic unit will include several existing programs at the university, including the School of Nursing, the Department of Physical Therapy, the health information management program and the health education and administration program. Janet Williams, dean of Carey's nursing school, will serve as dean of the new college. For more information about Carey's health-related programs, visit www.wmcarey.edu or call (601) 318-6478. To contribute to fundraising efforts for the pharmacy and physical therapy programs, visit www.wmcarey.edu/advancement or call (601) 318-6542.

LEADERSHIP

cont. from p. 1

returned as team captain but also added coaching to his duties.

It's a sport Li played with passion for years growing up in China. "Table tennis is a physical and mental game," the 6'3" Li said. With hollow white tennis balls sailing by at nearly 100 mph, the fast-paced Olympic sport isn't for the timid. "You must be brave at certain moments — you must," he said.

Li was the national collegiate table tennis singles champion last year, and came close to repeating

this year before he was defeated in the finals.

Li is described as a soft-spoken giant off the court who turns into a competitive tiger once he's got a paddle in hand and games are on the line. When he's not smacking balls at practices at Alumni Gym on the Clinton campus or traveling to tournaments around the country, he balances academics with his favorite sport.

A Christian, he enjoys worship services at Morrison Heights Church in Clinton and First Church in nearby Jackson. Helping shape his spiritual values, his mom and grandmother are both

Christians. He's also thankful to his friend, Tim Peabody, then a youth pastor at Morrison Heights Church, for instilling valuable lessons learned through Bible study.

Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College, its 5,000 students, and professors are the right fit for Li. "I like the people, the culture, the Christian background, and the weather is great — clear skies and fresh air."

What's ahead for Li once his college playing days are over? "Hopefully, I will be involved in table tennis for the next five to 10 years, enjoy playing, and still be a part of it," he said.

CHAMPIONSHIP

cont. from p. 1

In 2009, the MC women's team finished fourth in the nation. After a couple of consecutive seasons in fifth place, the Choctaws finally reached the No. 2 spot in 2012 at the national championships in Plano, Texas.

The team practices for countless hours at Alumni Gym on the Clinton campus and travels to tournaments around the nation.

Other 2015 national titles went to Texas Wesleyan University for men's singles, University of California at Berkley for women's singles, and Princeton University of New Jersey for its women's team that included U.S. Olympic stars like Ariel Hsing and Erica Wu.

Cal's Lily Zhang, the women's singles champ, also played on the U.S. Olympic team.

"To say this is a big deal is really an understatement," said Willy Leparulo, president of the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association in St. Peters, Mo. "It is a monumental win by Mississippi College."

The MC triumph, he said, "elevates all of college table tennis" after Methodist-affiliated Texas Wesleyan University's coed team ruled for so many years.

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Truth is not relative.
Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Revivals & Homecomings

► Unity Church, Moeller: Revival, Apr. 26 - 29; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Brad Miles, speaker; Garry Edwards, pastor.

► Mt. Olivet Church, Scott County: Revival, Apr. 24 - 26; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship 10:45 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Josh Spiers, speaker; Chris Wells, pastor.

► Crowder Church, Crowder: Homecoming, Apr. 26; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch.

► Pineview Church, Laurel: Revival, Apr. 26 - 29; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Brad Miles, speaker; Scarlett Sanders, music; Tim Nelson, pastor.

► New Prospect Church, Oxford: 105th Homecoming, Apr. 26; services, 9:30 a.m., including singing, special recognitions, and presentation of 105th year anniversary certificate, followed by covered dish lunch; Everett Childers, speaker.



DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

MAJORS OFFERED:

• Cross Cultural Business Management*

This new major, offered in conjunction with the School of Business, prepares students for overseas service in economic development, business management and marketing while also preparing them for ministry.

• Christian Ministry*

• Intercultural Studies/Missions

The Christian Ministry and Intercultural Studies majors equip and prepare students for leadership roles in areas of Christian ministry both at home and abroad.

MINORS OFFERED:

• Intercultural Studies/Missions

• Christian Ministry

• Pastoral Ministry (Expository Preaching)

• Youth Ministry

* Pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

LEARN MORE:

Dr. Brett Golson, Department Chair
(601) 318-6431 • bgolson@wmcarey.edu • WMCAREY.EDU

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 26, 2015

Hard Questions, Hard Answers • Habakkuk 1:1-6, 12-13; 2:1-4

Do you ever look around and think, This world is in a mess! What is God going to do about us?"

Habakkuk lived in such a day and sometimes thought he was the only one asking the questions. There was rampant evil. Then King Josiah, who was trying to bring about revival and reform, was foolishly killed in battle! There seemed to be little hope.

Many false religions and those who do not believe in God or even recognize His existence seem to be ruling the day. The day of absolute truth looks like a thing of the past. Tolerance rules the day. This was true for Habakkuk and it is true today. Is God taking notice? That seemed to be Habakkuk's approach. Let's take a look.

What about evil? (Habakkuk 1:1-4)
"O Lord, how long shall I cry, and You not hear? Even cry out to You, Violence!" (Habakkuk 1:2 NKJV)

The prophet was asking honest, heartfelt questions. God is not threatened by such questions. Habakkuk saw the evil, the plundering, the violence, strife, contention, and lawlessness. "The law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. The wicked surround the righteous." (v. 4)

To the prophet, evil ruled the day and God's discipline seemed to be lacking.

Christians are often frustrated when they work hard at following God's direc-

tions to obey His Word, yet the forces of evil are plundering the society. We wonder what is going to happen next. Will this evil be held accountable?

We must remember God is sovereign and still in control and on schedule. He was then and He is now.

I Am in Control (Habakkuk 1:5-6)

"Look among the nations and watch—Be utterly astounded!" (Habakkuk 1:5 NKJV)

God was reassuring His prophet He was fully aware of all that was happening and His plan was to deal in a fashion that the prophet would not believe if he were told. He would raise up an evil nation to judge and reprove His people for their rebellion and disbelief.

God has and does use forces of evil to bring His people back to faith. God uses pain and suffering at times to get our attention when we will not respond to truth and righteousness. It is often only in suffering that we cry out to God for

help, admitting we have not been obedient to His will.

But God, Why?

(Habakkuk 1:12-13, 2:1)

"Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, and hold Your tongue when wicked devours a person more righteous than he?" (Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV)

Habakkuk acknowledged the holy character of God, everlasting and sovereign. He knew that God was in control over even the forces of the evil Babylonians. He knew He allowed them to rise to power to bring His people back to

faith. The prophet was looking for understanding for the people of God who were not listening. He promised to be standing, waiting, listening for God to reveal His plans.

One writer has said it well, "When we do not understand the hand of God, you can trust His heart." Habakkuk could not fully understand all that he was

seeing at the moment, but he faithfully trusted God to reveal His plans in His perfect timing.

Trust Me! (Habakkuk 2:2-4)

"Write the vision and make it plain on the tablets that he may run who reads it." (Habakkuk 2:2 NKJV)

God answered the prophet with a vision for His people and for the ultimate judgment of Babylon. He was given instructions to write the vision on tablets to preserve God's truth for ages to come. God made known to the prophet that his generation was not alone in dealing with evil and unrighteousness, both among evil forces and even among the people of God. He was not given a timetable, but he was given assurance of the justice and judgment of God. God confirmed His word in verse 4, "Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by faith."

While we may understand that we are called to trust God in all circumstances, we sometimes tend to question His timing. We are called to walk by faith, not by sight, trusting God alone to lead us according to His perfect will. God never fails!

Young is retired Sunday School Director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and a member of Ridgecrest Church, Madison.

Stick with Love • John 15:9-14

For the past eight Sundays, we have carefully studied the life and ministry of Jesus. Tracing "His-story" as recorded in scripture, I believe we have proven without any doubt that Jesus is indeed like no other. Our relationship with Jesus is unquestionably the most valuable relationship in our lives. Every other relationship finds its meaning in and through our relationship with Jesus. For the next six Sundays, we will look at how to maintain healthy relationships, being mindful that we must first be connected to Jesus and then to those around us. Our unit title is, "Like Glue: Making Your Relationships Stick." This week, we will see that LOVE is not negotiable.

Our passage of scripture is John 15:9-14. In my Bible, these words are written in red. I would love to meet the person who decided to use red ink for the words of Jesus. What an awesome idea! Blood red words always get my attention. John, the beloved disciple, wrote the fourth gospel. In John 11, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. In John 12, Jesus enters Jerusalem for Passover. In John 13, the disciples share the "last supper" with Jesus in the Upper Room. After supper, Jesus washed the feet of each disciple.

After his final bite of bread and gravy, Judas walked out of the Upper Room with his two clean feet to arrange the plans for his betrayal of Jesus. Sadly, that means that Judas missed hearing some of the most amazing words of Jesus. Judas missed hearing Jesus speak of comfort for troubled hearts in John 14. He also missed words of Jesus about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He missed John 15 as Jesus spoke first about the vine and the branches

followed by our lesson on love. He missed John 16 and how to overcome the world and all its tribulation. He missed most especially John 17 and the prayer of Jesus. WOW, Judas sure did miss a lot. He could have used a little more glue and a lot more love.

In John 15:9, Jesus shares what I call the "Love Progression." God is love. Love is God. Love began in the heart of God. God loved us first. God loves

Jesus. God sent Jesus to love us. When we enter into relationship with God by grace through faith, we fall into the outstretched arms of Jesus. Calvary love is the greatest love of all. As we are loved by Jesus, we become lovers of others who need Him. So, love began with God and then moved through Jesus to us and through us to the world.

The final step of the "Love Progression" is seen in how we relate to those

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Just for the Record



The children of **POPLAR CHURCH, GOLDEN**, participated in an Easter egg hunt Apr. 4, hearing the Easter story through activities with the eggs.



Members of the JOY Club of **FIRST CHURCH, EUPORA**, recently enjoyed a trip to the Council House Café in French Camp.



Easter egg hunters from **NEW BETHEL CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY**, are shown with their finds from the annual egg hunt on the church grounds.



FIRST CHURCH, STONEWALL, honored Nina Magdalene Riggini with a reception Mar. 29 for her 46 years of mission service. Pastor Nick Ulmer presented her with a plaque of appreciation, and AMD Grady Crowell commended her for also serving as Clarke County WMU director for 14 years.



The RA's of **FIRST CHURCH, RUNNELSTOWN**, recently visited the senior adults of the church family who aren't able to participate on Wednesday nights.



CALVARY CHURCH, GREENVILLE, recently recognized Kay Lanford for her 20 years of service as church secretary. Shown is Lanford and pastor Roy Tidwell.

In other Church News:

► First Church, Mendenhall, is hosting an associational women's rally, What's In Your Purse?, Apr. 25, 7 p.m., for ages teen through senior adult. Cyndi Grace, speaker.

► Crystal Ridge Church, Louisville, is hosting a singing Apr. 25, 6 p.m., featuring the Gospel Barn Quartet. Love offering.

► New Hope Church, Foxworth, will present The Road to Calvary drama at Carson Springs Church, Sandy Hook, Apr. 26, 7 p.m.

► Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg, will host the Ricky Boler Family in concert Apr. 26, 6 p.m.

CHURCH BUDGET LEADERS TRAINING

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